

Attorney Docket No. AUS920030685US1
Serial No. 10/682,402

II. REMARKS

Claim Objections

1. The examiner objected to claim 5 because it recites "instructions ... Virtual Local Area Network rules table table." Applicant has amended claim 5 to overcome the objection.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

2. Claims 1-6, 8-12, 16-19, 24-26, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0041266 A1 to Ke et al. (hereinafter, "Ke"). Applicant has amended each independent claim to include the following limitations: (1) a trust level is a security level associated with a particular set of rules in the firewall; (2) a residence time is the time required for the firewall to analyze and either permit or deny a packet; and (3) the trust level reduces the residence time of the packet in the firewall. Support for the amendments is found in the specification at paragraph [0034] lines 1-2 and [0042], lines 12-14. Ke does not specifically disclose assigning trust levels associated with a particular set of rules, nor does Ke disclose reducing the residence time of a packet by means of the trust levels. Ke does not anticipate exactly each and every element of the claimed invention.

3. Claims 13-15, 20-23, and 27-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ke. Applicant submits that the independent claims distinguish over Ke and that these claims now depend from allowable claims.

Conclusion

4. Applicant submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,



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